

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 14005 040922Z

44
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 DHA-02 ORM-02 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 H-02 IO-13

/079 W
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R 040727Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8366

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 14005

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, UR
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NEW RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFERRING APARTMENTS OF
JEWISH EMIGRANTS FROM LENINGRAD

1. MOSCOW JEWISH ACTIVIST SOURCES TELL US THAT NEW RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN PUT ON TRANSFER OF APARTMENTS OF JEWISH EMIGRANTS FROM LENINGRAD. PREVIOUSLY, WHEN PART OF A FAMILY WAS EMIGRATING THE FAMILY APARTMENT WAS USUALLY REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF ONE OF THE REMAINING MEMBERS WHO COULD LATER EXCHANGE THE LARGER APARTMENT FOR A SMALLER ONE (USUALLY WITH SOME CASH THROWN IN). NOW THERE HAS BEEN A CRACKDOWN ON THESE (TECHNICALLY ILLEGAL) APARTMENT EXCHANGES AND FAMILIES ARE BEING FORCED TO TURN THEIR LARGER APARTMENTS INTO COMMUNAL ONES. IN ADDITION, OVR REPORTEDLY WILL NOT ACCEPT AN APPLICATION FOR EMIGRATION FROM ANYONE WHO HAS TRANSFERRED AN APARTMENT REGISTRATION WITHIN THE PREVIOUS SIX MONTHS.

2. SOURCES JOKINGLY SAID THAT THESE NEW PROCEDURES WERE LENINGRAD'S WAY OF FULFILLING PARTY FIRST SECRETARY ROMANOV'S PROMISE TO SOLVE LENINGRAD'S HOUSING SHORTAGE BY 1980 EVEN THOUGH THE OLYMPICS WILL ABSORB ALL CONSTRUCTION INVESTMENT UNTIL THEN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, TRAVEL CONTROLS, EMIGRANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW14005
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760336-0653
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760990/aaaaczej.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE NEW RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFERRING APARTMENTS OF JEWISH EMIGRANTS FROM LENINGRAD
TAGS: PINT, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006